

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the following amendments.

In the Claims:

The following listing of the claims replaces all previous listings:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-76. (cancelled)

77. (previously presented) A process for making a water-insoluble alginate sponge or foam product to be utilized in the preparation of wound dressings or surgical products comprising the steps of:

- (I) making an aqueous solution of a water-soluble alginate composition;
- (II) while allowing the total composition of (I) to be mixed, adding a di-or trivalent cation metal ion salt capable of complexing the water-soluble alginate to form a water-insoluble alginate hydrogel;
- (III) adding to the mixture of (II), a plasticizer, a surface active agent, sodium tetraborate, ammonium hydroxide, and a suitable medicinal agent;
- (IV) while continuing to mix the entire composition (III), adding an effervescent compound capable of effervescence upon reaction with a water-soluble acid;
- (V) adding to the composition (IV) a water-soluble acid;
- (VI) pouring said composite mixture of (V) onto a fibrous cloth contained in or on a tray, which fibrous cloth will become affixed to the alginate composition after the aqueous component of said composite mixture has evaporated.

78. (previously presented) The process of claim 77 wherein the effervescent

compound is selected from a group consisting of the alkali metal carbonates.

79. (previously presented) The process of claim 78 wherein said effervescent compound is sodium carbonate.

80. (previously presented) The process of claim 77 wherein said effervescent compound is sodium bicarbonate.

81. (previously presented) The process of 77 wherein said water soluble acid is selected from the group consisting of acetic, lactic, malic, gluconic, hydrochloric, and ascorbic acids.

82. (previously presented) The process of claim 77 in which the fibrous cloth is selected from cloths prepared from cotton, polyester, wool, nylon, rayon or mixtures thereof.

83. (previously presented) The process of claim 77 wherein said water-soluble alginate is selected from a group consisting of ammonium, magnesium, potassium, sodium salts of alginate, or mixtures thereof.

84. (previously presented) The process of claim 77 wherein said di- or trivalent cation is selected from a metal ion derived from salts selected from the group consisting of alkaline earth metal salts, alkali metal salts, transition metal salts, and mixtures thereof.

85. (previously presented) The process of claim 77 wherein said metal cation is selected from the group consisting of calcium, barium, copper, magnesium, iron, zinc, aluminum, manganese silver, strontium, and mixtures thereof.

86. (previously presented) The process of claim 77 wherein said medicament is selected from the group consisting of collagen, maltodextrin, antibiotics, antibacterial agents, an inflammatory agents, ascorbic acid, amino acids, and mixtures thereof.

87. (previously presented) The process of claim 77 wherein said plasticizer is selected from a group consisting of glycerin, propylene glycol, ethylene glycol, and polyethylene glycol or mixtures thereof.

88. (previously presented) The process of claim 77 wherein said surface active agent is selected from a group consisting of polyoxyethylene sorbitan monolaurate,

polyoxyethylene sorbitan monopalmitate polyoxyethylene sorbitan monooleate, polyoxyethylene sorbitan trioleate, polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene block polymer, or a mixture thereof.

89. (previously presented) The process of claim 77 wherein the di- or trivalent cation metal salt complexing the water soluble alginate is calcium sulphate.

90. (previously presented) The process of claim 77 where in the di-or trivalent cation metal salt complexing the water-soluble alginate is calcium chloride.

91-104 (cancelled)

105. (previously presented) The process of claim 77 in which the composition of (V) is sterilized.

106. (previously presented) The process of claim 105 in which the medicinal agent is a suspension of viable cells added to the sterilized composite mixture.

107. (previously presented) The process of claim 106 in which the composite mixture is poured onto a fibrous cloth contained in or on a tray, which fibrous cloth will become affixed to the alginate composition after the aqueous component of said composite mixture has evaporated.

108. (previously presented) The process of claim 106 in which the viable cells are mast cells.

109. (previously presented) The composition of claim 106 in which the viable cells are skin tissue cells.

110. (previously presented) The process of claim 109 wherein the effervescent compound is selected from a group consisting of the alkali metal carbonates.

111. (previously presented) The process of claim 110 wherein said effervescent compound is sodium carbonate.

112. (previously presented) The process of claim 106 wherein said effervescent compound is sodium bicarbonate.

113. (previously presented) The process of 106 wherein said water soluble acid is selected from the group consisting of acetic, lactic, malic, gluconic, hydrochloric, and ascorbic acids.

114. (previously presented) The process of claim 107 in which the fibrous cloth is selected from cloths prepared from cotton, polyester, wool, nylon, rayon, or

mixtures thereof.

115. (previously presented) The process of claim 106 wherein said water-soluble alginate is selected from a group consisting of ammonium, magnesium, potassium, sodium salts of alginate, or mixtures thereof.

116. (previously presented) The process of claim 106 wherein said di- or trivalent cation is selected from a metal ion derived from salts selected from the group consisting of alkaline earth metal salts, alkali metal salts, transition metal salts, and mixtures thereof.

117. (previously presented) The process of claim 106 wherein said metal cation is selected from the group consisting of calcium, barium, copper, magnesium, iron, zinc, aluminum, manganese, silver, strontium, and mixtures thereof.

118. (previously presented) The process of claim 106 wherein said medicament is selected from the group consisting of collagen, maltodextrin, antibiotics, antibacterial agents, anti-inflammatory agents, ascorbic acid, amino acids, and mixtures thereof.

119. (previously presented) The process of claim 106 wherein said plasticizer is selected from a group consisting of glycerin, propylene glycol, ethylene glycol, and polyethylene glycol or mixtures thereof.

120. (previously presented) The process of claim 106 wherein said surface active agent is selected from a group consisting of polyoxethylene sorbitan monolaurate, polyoxethylene sorbitan monopalmitate, polyoxethylene sorbitan monooleate, polyoxyethylene sorbitan trioleate, polyoxethylene-polyoxypropylene block polymer, or a mixture thereof.

121. (previously presented) The process of claim 106 where in the di- or trivalent cation metal salt complexing the water soluble alginate is calcium sulphate.

122. (previously presented) the process of claim 106 wherein the di- or trivalent cation metal salt complexing the water soluble alginate is calcium chloride.

123. (previously presented) The process of claim 106 wherein the di- or trivalent cation metal salt complexing the water soluble alginate is calcium acetate.

124-153 (cancelled)